

THE DESERT WHISPERS

Vol. I No. 2

FROM JOHNSON VALLEY

October 1967

ILLEGAL SHOOTING

Residents of Johnson Valley are invited to the Landers Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Tuesday, Nov. 14, at the Giant Rock Cafe.

A speaker from the Sheriff's Department will discuss illegal shooting, a topic of interest to all Valley residents and weekenders.

Luncheon reservations at \$1.35 may be made with Vola Gribble or Ray Curry.

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FOOD! FOOD! FOOD!

A dime-a-dip dinner will be held by the Desert Ears C-B Club on Nov. 18, at the Homestead Valley Association building in Landers. Proceeds will be used for the Christmas party.

Dinner will be available from 5 to 7 p.m. Guests are asked to bring their table settings, although it is not mandatory.

Club meetings are held the second Sunday of each month, with the next to be held Nov. 12.

New officers will be elected in December, to take office in January. Members of the nominating committee are Morrie Randall, Bert Hyder, Marie Stanley, Ancel Cole and Burl Moore.

The nominating committee met at the home of Sarge and Marie Stanley last Saturday, where Marie served on of her inimitable buffets.

Following the committee session, club members joined the group to express appreciation to the Coles for the use of their home and grounds for the most successful September steak fry. Pearl was busy entertaining guests at home, so Ancel accepted a gift for the couple.

In addition to the committee and the hosts those attending included Bert and Lucille Campbell, Buz and Ona Lamb, Dan and Eva Jarvis, Eva Hibbard, Tiny Randall, Joe DeVictoria and Golda Gunning.

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HOSPITALIZED

Daisy Crawford, everybody's friend, and Johnson Valley pioneer, is in the High Desert Memorial Hospital in Yucca Valley. She will probably be cheered to receive cards. Daisy is in room 101. We all wish her well.

*

BOB BURTON WINNER

"The Desert Whispers from Johnson Valley" may be the longest name for smallest paper in the country. Dozens of names were suggested, making the choice difficult.

Bob Burton suggested the winning name, and will receive the prize, which he can pick up any time at the Chisel Inn.

Another intriguing name was "The Horned Toad," suggested by Mrs. H. F. Scoville, of Monrovia. Since The Horned Toad will be used to head a section of the paper, Mrs. Scoville will also receive a token of appreciation.

Several readers made suggestions for additions and departments, and they will be incorporated as the paper grows. In this, the second edition, progress is indicated in larger size paper, double the number of printing to 200, and a mailing list which includes 16 cities outside of the Valley.

It looks as though Desert Whispers may be on its way.

For the time being the paper will remain on a chatty first-name basis, recognizing that it is not the best newspaper form.

With progress will come stuffy formality.

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HELP!

If your address is incorrect or your name misspelled, please let us know.

*

Time changes everything except something within us which is always surprised by change.

-- Thomas Hardy

As we go to press, Valleyites are planning for the second annual Halloween party at the Chisel Inn, which will be held at 8 o'clock tonight, Oct. 28.

Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Rummage through your drawers and go on down for an hilarious evening.

HAPPENINGS

by Aileen DeVictoria

Pat and Dick Reely spent their two-week vacation working on their cabin, relaxing and enjoying the Valley. They have earned a reputation as shuffleboard champs and await challengers.

Mrs. Deane Piner spent a week "down below" with daughter Joan and grandchildren, celebrating Joan's birthday. Her husband and Deane Jr., joined them for the birthday observance.

Bea Roush and Goldie Hopper have returned from a two-week trip which included taking in the Dodger-Pittsburgh game. Goldie had the thrill of catching an official ball thrown by Willie Stargel. She's sending it to grandson in Ohio. The tour included visits to friends in Long Beach and son Ronnie.

They also drove across the border for shopping and sightseeing in Tijuana. They came back for a rest.

Among the Valleyites trying their luck on the opening day of hunting this season, were Burt Campbell, Howard Tiggman, Buz Lamb and Virgil Drorbaugh. Anyway, they got in some target practice.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

by Martha Coutant

From the sidewalks of New York to the sands of Johnson Valley, via the Marshall Islands and Saipan, is the short version of the travels of Jose DeVictoria Jr.

And Joe, Aileen and 12-year-old Jody say they are glad to be here.

The DeVictorias are owner-operators of the Chisel Inn, first business in the Valley, which opened two years ago on Labor Day.

Aileen was born in Manhattan and was raised in the Bronx, and Joe was born in the Bronx and raised in Manhattan. But their paths did not cross until Joe visited Aileen's mother to tell her that son Wittey was wounded but was recovering and would be home soon.

Joe was in the Fourth Marine Division, saw action in Saipan and the Marshalla, and was also wounded.

Romantic! And so they were married.

Joe had been stationed at Camp Pendleton, and like many other veterans decided to move to California.

He also had a yen for acting, and they moved close to Hollywood. Joe studied acting at Ben Bard's Playhouse, and enjoyed a long run playing nine shows a week, at \$10 a week, at the Carousel Theater. He appeared in Playhouse 90, M-Squad, and State Trooper. But the strike and the egress of the big stars to foreign lands killed Hollywood, according to Joe. And since the area where the DeVictorias lived had changed from country to city, they too exited - to Johnson Valley.

(cont.)

NEIGHBORS (cont.)

Joe has big plans for enlarging the business, and is consulting the crystal ball to determine what should come first. He hopes to launch an outdoor theater when there is enough talent and interest. He also has plans on the drawing board for a public swimming pool and sauna bath, but is assessing the future for the right timing. A motel is also in the works.

Aileen and Joe are proud of Jody, a talented artist who loves horses and is a straight-A student at Apple Valley Junior High School.

They love it here. It's the country life that appeals to them, and they plan to stick around as long as it remains that way.

NOLC BASE CLOSED

The NOLC base has been closed since the first of October. Taking care of the property are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hulberg. - Red and Marie to the many friends they have already made.

MORE HAPPENINGS

Dan and Eva Jarvis have returned from a two-week trip to San Antonio, Texas, where they visited a daughter and her family, the Marvin Lathrops. The trip was made in their new Datsun sedan. "A wonderful trip," Eva said, even though it rained almost every day.

Was it a "fly-in" when several plane made use of the Jarvis airstrip on a recent Sunday?

Among those landing were Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hamet in a Cessna 210; Dr. and Mrs. Bendall, Cessna 182; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Essig, with the Hamets; and Mr. and Mrs. M.J. Murry and Mr. and Mrs. Gill Wainscote in a Cessna 210.

Recent visitors were Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Williams, formerly of Hannibal, Mo. They are the parents of Mrs. C. W. Strickland, and visited the Stricklands in Long Beach, as well as enjoying a weekend here in the Valley.

The Richard Dumonds were hosts to Norman and Wanda Alyea, and their two sons, Nickey and Mark. The Alyeas are from Bellflower.

A scorpion, four inches from nose to needle, took up residence in the Coutant garage. How is that for size? Do they come much bigger? We'd really like to know.

OPERATION RESCUE

by Betty Quarles

A brand-new walkie-talkie contributed to the prompt rescue of three persons from Onyx Summit on a recent Sunday.

William and Mario Favaro, Huntington Beach, and Lee Roche, of Anaheim, used the hand radio they had purchased that afternoon, when they became stranded at the 8,000-foot level after dark.

The trio had driven to the area, then walked some distance to check newly acquired property. When it grew dark, they decided to seek help, rather than walk in unfamiliar territory near a high ledge.

Answering the call for help at 8:45 p.m. was Bill Cone, KFA 7845, on Burnt Mt. Relaying the message were Ed Hyder, KFA 3342, Goat Mt., Clay Quarles, KFA 3842, at Green Rock Mine on Fry Mt., and Bill Goodwin, KOX 1810, Big Bear.

Goodwin contacted the Bear Valley Search and Rescue, and the Sheriff's and Forestry Depts. The lost trio was able to provide information regarding landmarks, leading to the rescue by midnight. Rickie Ledgering also aided in the monitoring operation.

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SURPRISE

Mrs. Burt (Lucille) Campbell was surprised on her birthday with a community gathering at the Chisel Inn. There were 54 Valleyites offering cards, gifts and felicitations.

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VISITOR

Recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Quarles at Green Rock Mine on Fry Mt., was Roy Bisterfeld, of Denver, Col.

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CREDULITY STRETCHER

Did you read about the 81-year-old woman who was cited for driving on the S. B. Freeway and going the wrong way? John Law, CHP officer, caught up with her on foot.

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God gives food to every bird, but He does not throw it into the nest.
-Brotherhood Journal

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Martha Coutant - executive editor

Marie Stanley - contributing editor

Stanley O. Coutant - managing editor

THANK YOU

Greetings to our 41 subscribers on this, our second issue of the paper. The first edition was a sell-out, which we are interpreting as encouraging, and will continue with plans to appear once a month.

We welcome news, criticisms, and comments.

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Charter subscriptions one dollar until Nov. 15. Thereafter \$1.50.
Mailing address:

Star Route 2,
Box 804 or Box 808,
Yucca Valley, Calif., 92284.

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NO PLACE LIKE JOHNSON VALLEY,
THE BEAUTY SPOT OF THE HIGH
DESERT. SOME TIME YOU WILL
LIVE HERE. PLAN NOW. ACREAGE
AND CABINS
BRUCE HOOKER
Manager Johnson Valley Branch Office
BILL HANSON REALTY

DON'T MEET ME AT THE CHISEL INN!
HOT BEER AND LOUSY FOOD.

JOE AND AILEEN
proprietors

IF YOU WANT TO GET GYPED
COME DOWN THE DIP

TO EVA HIBBARD'S GIFT SHOP

Eva Hibbard, prop.

DID YOU KNOW

The desert tortoise can crawl twenty feet a minute when not diverted by a plant. The tortoise stores water, converted from some of its food, in two sacs under its upper shell. A pint of water lasts for the season. A full-grown tortoise is about a foot long.

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Whirlwinds = dust devils = tornillos. They can be a thousand feet tall, and several are often visible at a time. They are "leaks" of air when there is not sufficient wind velocity for heat adjustment.

THE HORNED TOAD WONDERS

Looking out from under my rock at the antics of people gives me cause for bewilderment. It is said that people come to the desert for relaxation and to take little pleasure trips. But as I do my push-ups here in the sun, (45-46-47) enjoying the beautiful view and the clear air, I wonder and worry about some of these people.

For instance, Woody and Lois Shehorn and Joe DeVictoria went on a fishing trip to the Salton Sea on a recent Monday. Aileen stayed home to cater to Jody's flu bug. The fishing trio failed to return home on schedule, causing some concern.

It seems that someone was confused in direction and the boat ran aground on a sandbar. The night was balmy, but pitch black, and they decided to stay and wait for daylight. Joe went swimming. At sunrise they got on course and found their parked truck. On the way home a tire flew to pieces. More delay.

They returned home, saying what a good time they had, but Joe was moving very slowly.

And people are supposedly more intelligent than us horned toads, doing our push-ups in the sun, (75-76-77)

And take that other group of intrepid explorers, led by Stanley (call me Columbus) Coutant and Richard (Cortez) Dumond, followed by the trusting and loyal families of Richard Bergholz and Norman Alyea. They were seeking the Indian petroglyphs across the Valley. They bounced for miles, came to many dead-ends, found one section of road completely washed out, and on re-routing, sailed across the dry lake, full speed ahead, confident, happy, until skidding to a stop at a bright new sign proclaiming "No Trespassing," courtesy USMC.

They returned home, and I understand intend to try again.

People! Oh, well, 101-102-103.

-- The Horned Toad

MORE HAPPENINGS

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Dan and Eva Jarvis
at Vista Valley Air Strip.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS AND COMMENTS

The Desert Whispers from Johnson Valley
Star Route #2,
Box 804,
Yucca Valley, Calif. 92284.

Lucille Campbell hosted her art class in oil painting at her cabin during a recent weekend. Students painted the view from the cabin and became enamored with the Valley. Lucille is still glowing from the effects of the surprise birthday party at the Chisel Inn and says thankyou to all.

We received a kind letter from Nina Lockey of Rock Haven, who has been visiting friends in Kansas and Texas, and her sister Roberta Carsen in Phoenix. She said she has plans for building here next summer.

The desert is infested with sharks. Women pool sharks! All were new at the when they began regular Wednesday sessions, but now they can give their husbands cause for concern.

Regulars are Bea Roush, Lois Shehorn, Ruby Piner, Goldie Hopper and Myna Drorbraugh. Joining the group for the first time recently were Mrs. Cecil Head, playing her first game, Mildred Jacobs and Golda Gunning.